BOOK GROUPS IN ENGLISH 8

Challenges of Immigrants and Refugees

This year in English, you will have book groups that will consist of at least two students. You must choose from a curated and guided list of books.

* You should read over the book “blurbs,” and select the book that you NEED to read!
* The books range from challenging to very challenging as they are listed below.
* Consider your interests, the page lengths of the books as well as the complexity of the texts.
* Here is the first list of books relating to challenges that immigrants and refugees face:

1. *A Long Walk To Water* by Linda Sue Park. Based on a true story, two eleven year-olds tell their connected stories of life in the war torn country of Sudan. One is a water hauler whose singular purpose is to seek water for her family and the other is a “lost boy” whose village was destroyed. (115 pages)

2. *The Day of the Pelican* by Katherine Paterson (fiction) Meli and her family leave war-torn Albania to live in a refugee camp in Kosovo. A church group brings them to Vermont where they face unexpected religious based challenges after the events of 9/11. (144 pages)

3. *The Good Braider* by Terry Farish (fiction, novel in verse). Viola flees her home country of South Sudan where rape is a weapon of war. After a dangerous journey, she ends up in Maine and struggles to adapt to an American culture. (217 pages)

4. *Outcasts United* by Warren St. John (young adult non-fiction). This is the true story of a Jordanian female coach of a boys’ soccer team in Georgia. The players come from many African countries and have to learn to adapt to new traditions and customs. With their coach’s help and firm resolve, the boys learn how to navigate on and off of the soccer pitch. (226 pages)

5. *Shooting Kabul* by N.H. Senzai (documentary fiction) Fadi and his family escape from the Afghanistan and the Taliban in 2001 and immigrate to California. Years later, Fadi returns to find his younger sister who was accidentally left behind. (258 pages)

6. *Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston (non-fiction). This is the story of a 7-year old girl and her Japanese-American family who were forced to leave their home and live at an internment camp along with other Japanese citizens after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. (208 pages)

The book that I would like to select is # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_